

Message Text

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TAGS: CVIS CGEN

SUBJECT: COMPLAINT OF USC OTTO GILBERT

REF: STATE 055924

1. MONDAY MORNING FEBRUARY 23, A U.S. CITIZEN FROM NEW YORK CITY, MR. OTTO GILBERT, KNOWN IN HUNGARY AS OTTO GYEPES, CAME TO THE EMBASSY'S CONSULAR SECTION TO FILE AN IR-1 VISA PETITION FOR HIS HUNGARIAN WIFE, EVA ZSUZSANNA GYEPES, WHOM HE HAD MARRIED IN BUDAPEST FEBRUARY 21. LOCAL STAFF PROVIDED MR. GILBERT WITH THE USUAL FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS. MR. GILBERT

QUESTIONED THE NEED TO PROVIDE, AS REQUIRED BY REGULATIONS, PROOF OF TERMINATION HIS PREVIOUS MARRIAGE AND OF HIS WIFE'S PREVIOUS MARRIAGE (EACH HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY MARRIED ONCE; AND DIVORCED ONCE). A FURTHER COMPLICATION AROSE FROM THE FACT THAT MR. GYEPES HAD CHANGED HIS NAME TO MR. GILBERT IN THE U.S., NOT ON THE OCCASION OF HIS NATURALIZATION THERE, BUT BY SEPARATE, LATER COURT PROCESS. WHEN MR. GILBERT BECAME TRUCULENT, THE LOCAL STAFFERS CORRECTLY REFERRED MR. GILBERT TO THE CONSULAR SECTION CHIEF, MR. LONGO, WHO RECEIVED HIM IMMEDIATELY.

2. LONGO GLANCED OVER THE NAME-CHANGE DECREE AND AT
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FIRST SIGHT SAW NO PROBLEMS WITH IT (THOUGH A PROBLEM

WAS TO MATERIALIZE ON FEBRUARY 24). EXPLAINING THAT VISA-PETITION REGULATIONS WERE OF UNIFORM APPLICATION WORLDWIDE, LONGO URGED MR. GILBERT TO PROVIDE THE DIVORCE DOCUMENTS REQUIRED. AS BOTH MR. GILBERT AND HIS WIFE HAD TERMINATED THEIR PREVIOUS MARRIAGES BY DIVORCE PROCEEDINGS IN HUNGARIAN COURTS, CERTIFIED COPIES OF THE RELEVANT DECREES WERE AVAILABLE LOCALLY. LONGO STRESSED THE REGULATION REQUIREMENT FOR CERTIFIED COPIES, NOT INFORMAL PHOTOCOPIES. MR. AND MRS. GILBERT LEFT, PROMISING TO RETURN THE NEXT DAY WITH THE REQUESTED DOCUMENTS. THIS CONVERSATION BETWEEN MR. GILBERT AND CONSUL LONGO WAS COURTEOUS ENOUGH, ALTHOUGH MR. GILBERT DID LET IT BE KNOWN THAT HE WAS EXTREMELY IMPATIENT WITH ALL THE "BUREAUCRACY" INVOLVED. SUBSEQUENTLY, LOCAL STAFF MEMBERS ADVISED LONGO THAT MR. GILBERT HAD LEFT THE EMBASSY MUTTERING OBSCENITIES (IN HUNGARIAN) LOUDLY ENOUGH FOR THEM AND OTHER VISITORS TO HEAR; AND THEY REPORTED THAT MR. GILBERT HAD BEEN UNIQUELY OVERBEARING IN HIS DEALINGS WITH THEM AT THE CONSULAR SECTION COUNTER, INSISTING THAT HIS NEEDS AND QUESTIONS BE TAKEN CARE OF IMMEDIATELY, AND ELBOWING ASIDE OTHER (HUNGARIAN) APPLICANTS.

3. ON THE AFTERNOON OF FEBRUARY 24 MR. AND MRS. GILBERT RETURNED, BUT WITH ONLY AN INFORMAL PHOTOCOPY OF HIS DIVORCE DECREE. MR. GILBERT EXECUTED THE VISA PETITION IN HIS WIFE'S BEHALF, BUT FLATLY REFUSED TO PRESENT THE REQUIRED CERTIFIED DIVORCE DECREE COPY. EXPLAINING AGAIN THE UNIFORM APPLICATION OF VISA PETITION DOCUMENTARY REQUIREMENTS WORLDWIDE, LONGO SPENT THIRTY MINUTES TRYING TO CONVINCE AN EVER-MORE-IMPATIENT MR. GILBERT TO OBTAIN THE NECESSARY CERTIFIED COPY. FINALLY MR. GILBERT SAID HE WOULD TRY TO DO SO THE SAME DAY.

4. AT 1600 ON FEBRUARY 24 MR. GILBERT RETURNED WITH A DULY CERTIFIED DIVORCE DECREE COPY. HOWEVER IN REVIEWING GILBERT'S NAME-CHANGE COURT DECREE, LONGO HAD DISCOVERED A REPEATED BIRTH DATE DISCREPANCY. WHILE NOT REALLY DOUBTING THAT THE DECREE REFERRED TO THE PERSON BEFORE HIM, LONGO SOMEWHAT APOLOGETICALLY EXPLAINED TO MR. GILBERT THAT THE DISCREPANCY WAS ONE THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO CLEAR UP, IN HIS OWN AND HIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WIFE'S INTEREST.

5. MR. GILBERT EXPLODED. LACING HIS REMARKS WITH HUNGARIAN OBSCENITIES, MR. GILBERT MADE REFERENCES TO BUREAUCRATIC STUPIDITY; HE VOICED PERSONAL THREATS; AND HE SHOUTED DEMANDS TO SEE LONGO'S SUPERIOR IMMEDIATELY. MR. GILBERT INSISTED THAT LONGO ISSUE HIS WIFE A VISA CERTIFICATION FORTHWITH (REQUIRED IN SUPPORT OF HER NECESSARY APPLICA-

TION FOR A HUNGARIAN EMIGRATION PASSPORT). LONGO, BY THIS TIME WONDERING GENUINELY WHY MR. GILBERT WAS SO ADAMANTLY SET AGAINST OBTAINING, IN THE U.S., WHAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN EASILY-ARRANGED CORRECTION OF HIS DEFECTIVE NAME-CHANGE DECREE, REFUSED. MR. GILBERT THEN WITHDREW THE VISA PETITION, SAYING HE WOULD "GET THE VISA" THROUGH INS VIENNA OR INS NYC. WHEREUPON CONSUL LONGO REFUNDED HIM THE PETITION AND NOTARIAL FEES.

6. ONE-HALF HOUR LATER, IN ACCORDANCE WITH HIS REQUEST, MR. GILBERT AND HIS WIFE WERE RECEIVED BY AMBASSADOR MCAULIFFE (IN LONGO'S PRESENCE). DURING THAT THIRTY-MINUTE CONVERSATION, THE WHOLE COMPLICATED CASE WAS REVIEWED IN DETAIL IN A COURTEOUS AND SEEMLY MANNER, ALTHOUGH MR. GILBERT REMAINED TENSE. DESPITE THE AMBASSADOR'S PATIENT EXPLANATION THAT IT WAS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF ALL CONCERNED TO RECTIFY THE NAME-CHANGE DISCREPANCY, AND HIS SUGGESTION THAT MR. GILBERT COULD ARRANGE, THROUGH THE COURT OR INS OR THE PASSPORT OFFICE IN NEW YORK TO NOTIFY EMBASSY BUDAPEST VERY QUICKLY BY CABLE AS SOON AS THE CORRECTION WAS EFFECTED, MR. GILBERT REMAINED DISSATISFIED AND UNCONVINCED. HOWEVER, MR. GILBERT DID ACCEPT LONGO'S RECOMMENDATION THAT ATTEMPTS TO PURSUE THE VISA PETITION MATTER THROUGH INS VIENNA OR INS NYC WOULD SIMPLY RESULT IN FURTHER DELAYS. MR. GILBERT RE-PAID THE PETITION FEES, AND THE PETITION REMAINS ONFILE HERE.

7. COMMENT: LONGO REPORTS THAT IN HIS SEVEN-YEARS EXPERIENCE IN SEVERAL CONSULAR VINEYARDS, MR. GILBERT WAS THE MOST DIFFICULT AND THE MOST ABUSIVE CUSTOMER WHOM HE HAS ENCOUNTERED. MR. GILBERT SUCCEEDED IN APPALLING PUBLIC ONLOOKERS AND CONSULAR STAFF MEMBERS ALIKE WITH HIS LOUD, PUSHY ATTITUDE AND HIS REPEATED OBSCENITIES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHICH GAVE NEEDLESS OFFENSE TO EMBASSY BUDAPEST'S LOYAL, CONSCIENTIOUS AND NORMALLY UNFLAPPABLE FEMALE FSLES. LONGO PRUDENTLY AND CORRECTLY INSISTED ON VERIFYING THE NAME-CHANGE DECREE. AGAIN AND AGAIN INS HAS ADVISED OF THE PREVALENCE OF MARRIAGE AND OTHER VISA-RELATED FRAUDS; AND HAS WARNED CONSULAR OFFICERS TO BE VIGILANT. CONSUL LONGO AND HSI STAFF WERE POLITE, VIGILANT AND RESPECTFUL IN THEIR DEALING WITH MR. AND MRS. GILBERT. THE DEPARTMENT OF MR. GILBERT HERE AT THE EMBASSY AND HIS THREAT TO DO CONSUL LONGO BODILY HARM (PARA 2 REFTEL) ARE MYSTIFYING.

8. TO DATE THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED NO EXPLANATION OR CORRECTION OF MR. GILBERT'S NAME-CHANGE DECREE DISCREPANCY. AS SOON AS CORRECTION VERIFICATION IS OFFICIALLY RECEIVED THE EMBASSY WILL PROCEED TO APPROVE THE VISA PETITION

AND COMMENCE PROCESSING OF MRS. GILBERT'S VISA APPLICATION. AS WAS EXPLAINED TO THE GILBERTS WHILE THEY WERE HERE, NORMAL PROCESSING OF AN IMMEDIATE-RELATIVE IMMIGRANT CASE IN HUNGARY FROM DATE OF THE EMBASSY'S APPROVING THE PETITION TO DATE OF ACTUAL VISA ISSUANCE IS TWO TO THREE MONTHS. MUCH OF THIS TIME IS REQUIRED FOR APPLICANTS TO OBTAIN THEIR NECESSARY HUNGARIAN EMIGRATION PASSPORTS.

9. AMBASSADOR MCAULIFFE BACKS CONSUL LONGO TO THE HILT.

10. THE EMBASSY HAS ADMINISTRATIVELY CONTROLLED THIS REPORT ONLY BECAUSE OF PRIVACY ACT STRICTURES. THE DEPARTMENT MAY IN ITS DISCRETION DRAW ON THIS ENTIRE MESSAGE FREELY.
MCAULIFFE

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